GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5986
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
NON-ACCEPTANCE OF POOR QUALITY RICE BY KARNATAKA
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had expressed its reservations over accepting the `below fair/average` quality of rice procured from Punjab for public distribution within the State as better quality rice is available in the open market almost at the same price;

(b) if so, whether as a result of non-acceptance of the TPDS rice by the card holders, theState Government is saddled with unsold stocks;

(c) whether the State Government has suggested to the Union Government to approve eitherincrease the per family quota for below poverty line card holders from 8 to 15/20 kgs. per month or alternatively effect a reduction in the selling price by Rs.2.00 per kg so that the unsold stock is disposed off; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) No Sir, no such complaint has been received from the State Government of Karnataka.However, the State Government had made a proposal in March, 1999 for issue of rice procured under relaxed specification (URS Rice) which is fit for human consumption and conforms to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) norms with non-URS rice in the ratio of 80:20Alternatively, they requested for issue URS and non-URS rice on alternate months. Accordingly,the FCI issued URS and non-URS rice in the ratio of 80:20 upto May 1999 and, thereafter, URS and non-URS rice are being issued on alternate months basis.

(b) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) The State Government has suggested to the Union Government to increase the entitlementof BPL families to 25 Kgs. foodgrains per family per month.

(d) With a view to streamlining the Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS), the Union Government has increased the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families from 10 Kgs to 20 Kgs per family per month w.e.f. 1st April 2000.